International Seabed Authority ISBA/21/A/INF/3

Assembly

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Request for observer status in accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly on behalf of the Fish Reef Project

Note by the Secretariat

1. On 2 June 2015, the Fish Reef Project submitted a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority, requesting observer status in the Assembly of the Authority. The text of the letter and additional information provided by the applicant are contained in annexes I and II to the present note.

2. In accordance with rule 82, paragraph 1 (e), of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, non-governmental organizations with which the Secretary-General has entered into arrangements in accordance with article 169, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other non-governmental organizations invited by the Assembly which have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Assembly, may participate as observers in the Assembly.

3. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the same rule further provide that observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule may sit at public meetings of the Assembly, and, upon the invitation of the President and subject to approval by the Assembly, may make oral statements on questions within the scope of their activities, and that written statements submitted by observers referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of that rule within the scope of their activities which are relevant to the work of the Assembly should be made available by the Secretariat in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements are submitted.

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Annex I

Letter dated 1 June 2014 from the Managing Director of the Fish Reef Project, Chris Goldblatt, addressed to the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority

The Fish Reef Project respectfully requests recognition by the Assembly as an observer to the International Seabed Authority under the provisions of rule 82 (1) (e) of the rules of procedure of the Authority.

The Project is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization comprising national organizations in the field of artificial reef-making and marine mitigation.

The Project has a history of successful collaboration with other groups, including the Reef Ball Foundation, state and federal agencies of the United States of America and the International Technology Advisory Board on Sea Dumped Weapons.

The Project views the minerals of the deep ocean floor as a resource of growing economic potential. We believe that the Authority, sponsoring States, contractors and the Project itself can all benefit from the involvement of the Project as an official non-governmental observer with the International Seabed Authority and respectfully request your support with the present application for recognition.

(*Signed*) Chris **Goldblatt**
Managing Director

Annex II

International Seabed Authority observer status request

1. Name of organization

Fish Reef Project

2. Address of office

315 Meigs Rd. Ste A 289
Santa Barbara, California 93109
United States of America

3. Name and address of proposed primary representative

Chris Goldblatt
315 Meigs Rd. Ste A 289
Santa Barbara, California 93109
United States of America
chris@fishreef.org

4. Aims and purpose of the Fish Reef Project

The mission of the Fish Reef Project is to restore and enhance the marine ecosystem by means of the creation of new reefs in the sea. The Project would like to create a working relationship with the International Seabed Authority and its members to help to create a dialogue, mutual understanding and a legal working framework for a centralized marine mitigation bank. The purpose would be to allow deep sea mining and other planned projects to have an option for collective mitigation and to offset impacts to marine ecosystems.

5. History

The Fish Reef Project was formed as a public non-profit (under section 501c3 of the United States Internal Revenue Code) in 2011 by a group of Santa Barbara-based ocean users, academics, scientists, artisanal fisherman, divers, environmental advocates and citizens. The Project has operated with the help of the Reef Ball Foundation, which has created a global network making new reefs in over 70 countries. The Project has created a powerful dialogue in the national and international communities about how creating new reefs can offset human impacts to the seafloor. We have created reefs and established a positive reputation among academia, state and federal agencies and the public at large.